

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Clementina Lunar, and I am a resident of 96 Golden Hill Road, Danbury 06811. I am a naturalized citizen since 2008. I stand in support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.

I'm an immigrant from Mexico. I've been living in Danbury, Connecticut for 30 years. I live with my husband, my son and daughter. Our oldest daughter moved to Maryland with her husband and recently became parents of a beautiful baby girl. I work as a tutor for school age children and recently I started my dog sitter business. My husband and I migrated to the US because we were looking for better opportunities. We were undocumented therefore we and our oldest daughter didn't qualify for state insurance and the jobs we had did not offer health insurance.

We had to take our daughter to a free clinic where the doctor was generous with her skills but mean to the migrant parents who attended her clinic. It wasn't till I became a lawful resident and my daughter too that I was able to get a job that provided health insurance. This situation put so much financial and emotional pressure on our family because the free clinic didn't offer dental or vision services we had to pay out of pocket full price. We had to make sacrifices such as buying food or get an extra job to be able to pay for medical expenses.

Bill **HB 6616** will help Connecticut undocumented children by not sacrificing the health of children. Children will have access to comprehensive health services in the state making sure they grow healthy and their parents and caretakers won't have to worry about extra expenses making sure our communities grow stronger and healthier.

I support HB 6616 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Thank you for your time.

Clementina Lunar